

Members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC). During their meeting with the CHC, we had the opportunity to discuss the political and economic integration process of MERCOSUR and the effects of this free-trade pact on the United States economy.

Data from the Department of Commerce on the current balance of trade between MERCOSUR and the United States shows that the United States not only enjoys a surplus in trade with MERCOSUR, but also reveals that exports to MERCOSUR countries are significantly larger than those to China and Russia together, \$23.3 billion versus \$16 billion. This is an important fact we should remember as we continue to develop relations with these countries.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my appreciation to the Joint MERCOSUR Parliamentary Delegation for visiting Washington and extend my congratulations to the MERCOSUR countries for their achievements.

WOMEN'S HISTORY COLLECTION

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and salute the establishment of a Women's History Collection at the Jackson County Historical Society Archives and Research Library. Two remarkable women, Barbara Potts, former Mayor of Independence, and Jane Flynn, former administrator of the Landmarks Commission, have researched and preserved the lives of leading Kansas City women and their history.

Last weekend this exhibit was launched with a celebration at the University of Missouri—Kansas City entitled "Give Children the Gift of Women's History." As we salute Women's History Month we must remember the importance of passing on our heritage to new generations.

During the 20th Century a great deal of significant change has taken place for women. The institution of Congress has evolved from 1917 when Jeanette Rankin was the first woman Member of Congress to the 53 women who currently serve in the House. There is respect for the contributions made by women Members of Congress who are playing a significant role in establishing sound public policy.

It is important that young women know who their Founding Mothers are. This exhibit exemplifies what pioneering women have done to move our community forward. This array of women include the women who started Children's Mercy Hospital, Dorothy Gallagher, whose family built what is now the Guadalupe Center, and Linda Hall, whose library researchers depend on worldwide. Sharing the history of important Kansas City women with subsequent generations will be made possible by this exhibit.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to applaud Barbara Potts and Jane Flynn for their initiative to establish the Women's History Collection and all the women whose lives comprise it.

TRIBUTE TO DR. AND MRS.
CHARLES AND REBECCA GUNNOE

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, throughout this country of ours there are a few individuals who, because they contribute so generously of their time and talents to help others, are recognized as pillars of their community. Charles and Rebecca Gunnoe are two individuals who have combined their forces over the past 25 years, both in medical practice and in the community. I would like to take this opportunity to honor and praise them for their commitment to family, community, and the well-being of the Nation as a whole.

Early in his career, Dr. Gunnoe began the practice of advocating quality care for patients and firmly believes that it is possible for one physician to make a difference. He moved to Corona in 1954 and quickly became involved in many community activities. He began by serving as co-chairman on a committee of Corona citizens to recommend specialized needs and priorities for the future of Corona. He was also the Charter President of the Corona Junior Chamber of Commerce and helped develop and dedicate the first Boys Club of Corona. In addition to establishing a family life in Corona, Dr. Gunnoe founded the Circle City Hospital which is now part of the Corona Regional Medical Center. He also built the Corona Clinic where he continues to practice today.

Along with working on a daily basis with her husband, Mrs. Gunnoe too has demonstrated a commitment to the community in the development and funding of the Corona chapter of the Trauma Intervention Program, or TIP. This volunteer based organization assists families of victims in tragic situation.

Together they have provided funds and assistance in the development of a Christian school library, supported community resources such as the YMCA, Lion's Club, and other service organizations such as the Cancer Society, Foundation of Circle City Hospital and Corona Regional Medical Center, United Way, and Police and Sheriff Relief Funds.

I am fortunate to have Chuck and Becky Gunnoe as members of my district and personal friends. Their commitment to family and community is one that should serve as a model for others to follow. I thank them for their innumerable contributions and wish them the best of luck in all of their future endeavors.

WELCOMING PRESIDENT FIDEL
VALDEZ RAMOS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, hailing from the congressional district geographically situated closest to the Republic of the Philippines, Guam and its people share deep cultural and historic ties with the Philippines. It is, therefore, with great anticipation and pleasure that I join Filipino communities all over the

country in welcoming His Excellency, Fidel Valdez Ramos, the President of the Republic of the Philippines, to the United States as he visits our nation's capital next week.

As with the island of Guam, the rest of the United States have for over a century shared historic, cultural, political and economic ties with the Republic of the Philippines. President Ramos is the embodiment of these ties. He comes from very respected and prominent families in the Philippines. His Father Narciso Ramos was a lawyer, crusading journalist, and five-term member of the Philippine House of Representatives, who was later appointed Secretary of Foreign Affairs. His mother, Angela Valdez, was a suffragette and public school teacher.

Destined towards greatness, President Ramos exhibited dedication to excellence even in his formative years. He graduated valedictorian at the Lingayen Central School prior to being accepted to the University of the Philippines High School in Manila. In 1946, he was chosen to receive a Philippine government scholarship to attend the prestigious United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. As one of the top graduates of West Point's Class of 1950, President Ramos was invited to join the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. Upon graduation in 1950, President Ramos' desire to help rebuild his country from the ruins of World War II led him to pursue a master's degree in civil engineering at the University of Illinois. He served alongside American servicemen as a Second Lieutenant in the Philippine Expeditionary Force during the Korean War and, later, as Chief of Staff of the Philippine Civil Action Group in Vietnam.

The culmination of his illustrious military career came when he was appointed Chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in 1986. True to his commitment to duty, honor, and country, he joined forces with former defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile during the 1986 EDSA "People Power" Revolution, a coup d'etat designed to restore democracy to the Philippine Republic. He was later appointed Secretary of National Defense under President Corazon C. Aquino and, in 1992, the people of the Philippines gave him the mandate to be twelfth in a succession of Philippine presidents since the proclamation of the First Philippine Republic in 1898.

During his visit I am sure that President Ramos will take some time to focus upon an issue which has been of importance to him for some time now. While still a West Point Cadet in the 1950's, President Ramos became interested in bells left by the Army 11th Infantry at F.E. Warren AFB, Wyoming, the Bells of Balangiga. These church bells were taken from a Catholic church in the Philippines by U.S. military forces in 1901. As Philippine Defense Secretary and later as President of the Philippine Republic, he repeatedly worked toward the return of these bells.

There was a time when officers at F.E. Warren wanted to get rid of the bells. The brass relics seemed to have no relevance for a modern missile base. Few people seemed to know or care about these bells—that is until the Filipinos requested their return.

Vocal opposition from a number of Cheyenne residents has prevented any progress on this issue. The bells are currently part of a monument which supposedly memorializes American soldiers who died in Balangiga, a small town in Central Philippines. However,

our failure to resolve this matter is slowly transforming this monument into a symbol of inflexibility and false pride.

On November 7, 1997, I introduced H. Res. 312 to remedy the situation. Along with members of the Wyoming State Legislature and Philippine Ambassador Raul Chaves Rabe, I propose a compromise whereby this solitary and isolated memorial will be converted into fitting monuments located on both sides of the world dedicated to the peace, friendship and cooperation that have existed between the United States and the Filipino people. This compromise calls for the United States and the Republic of the Philippines to share the bells. The bells will be recast and duplicates made. The United States and the Philippines will each keep an original and a duplicate. The Philippine government has even expressed willingness to absorb the costs involved. H. Res. 312 would facilitate this proposal, which I hope my colleagues will take the time to reconsider.

As we welcome President Fidel Ramos to our country, let us honor this man whose career and accomplishments has been a manifestation of Philippine-American friendship and cooperation through the years. Let us not dwell upon long forgotten conflicts and altercations. Instead, let us move forward and, as we have always done in the past, work together in the promotion of our mutual goals.

KING ON THE HILL

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to tell the House a story about one of my most accomplished constituents from Colorado. Thirteen year old Kyle King of Limon, Colorado stopped by our Congressional office in Washington, D.C., last week. It was my last appointment before returning home to Colorado for a few days of town meetings on the eastern plains.

Kyle was accompanied by his parents Deb and Greg. Limon Jr. Highschool recessed for spring break giving Kyle and his folks a perfect chance to visit the nation's capital.

By the time we met up, the Kings had already seen the most prominent sites, shrines and monuments to our country's history. But the real reason they came to Washington was to see Kyle's big sister Amanda.

Amanda's been in Washington now for nine months. She's sixteen years old, has never before been so far away from home, and she's certainly never been away for such a long time.

A couple years back, Amanda made up her mind that she wanted to be a Congressional Page—not an ordinary sort of ambition, especially for a youngster growing up on the high plains. But to Deb and Greg, Amanda has never been anything short of extraordinary. They encouraged her to apply.

The Page Program is extremely competitive. Several thousand high schoolers from across America apply for the honor of serving on the floor of the United States House of Representatives.

The first requirement for consideration is to secure sponsorship by a Member of Con-

gress. I receive dozens of applications per year out of Colorado's Fourth Congressional District. For the full-time position, I may sponsor only one, which only means the applicant I choose will then be considered by the Speaker of the House.

Since time away from home entails a disrupted academic calendar, only the best and brightest are accepted. Successful applicants enter an alternative education program built around a busy and unpredictable work schedule. Pages are housed in college-style dormitories one block from the Capitol building.

There are 435 Members of Congress. This year, only 66 Pages were selected.

Being a new Member of Congress, I was told any applicant from my district was a long shot. I lobbied hard for Amanda King anyway, betting the strength of her resume would compensate for my lack of seniority.

Naturally, I was as excited as Amanda upon receiving the news she had been accepted into the Page Program.

Amanda is too modest about the significance and importance of her position. It's much more than a nice recognition for a country girl done well.

She is an ambassador for Colorado and specifically for the City of Limon. It's a role she fulfills exceptionally well. Her peers joke that they can't get her to stop talking about life out West.

A few months back, I visited Limon Elementary School to talk to students about my job as a Congressman. My presentation covered the usual topics of taxes, education, agriculture and so on. But the first question from Principal Valerie Bass was, "How often do you get to see Amanda King? How's she doing?"

Similarly, last month, I spoke at a dinner in Hugo, Colorado, commemorating Abraham Lincoln's birthday. Again, the people in the hall asked for an update on Amanda. I was proud to provide it.

Amanda is clearly one of the House's favorite Pages. She's one of the most reliable. In addition to fetching documents, and relaying messages, Pages make the actual floor work run smoothly. They greet many of the tourists and visitors at the Capitol, and they must know the intricacies of House procedures in order to do their jobs. Amanda knows the process better than most senior Members.

During moments of down time, I sometimes rehearse portions of my speeches before walking onto the floor and I seek out Amanda for her opinion. Her advice has always been useful and I'm convinced that her grammatical suggestions have made me more persuasive.

Most of all, Amanda's enthusiasm for America is infectious. She is optimistic about the nation's future and her role in shaping it. I've spoken with her about her personal goals and dreams, and I know she views herself within a patriotic context.

Last week's meeting in the office with the King family was one of the most inspiring I've had so far as a Congressman. It shifted my perspective somewhat.

Usually I think my success in Congress is measured by my effectiveness with legislation and budgeting the public's funds. And although I'm encouraged to have accomplished more than most of my colleagues on behalf of the people I represent, it became even more clear that one of the most rewarding things I've been able to do is sponsor Amanda King as a Congressional Page.

The eyes of Amanda's parents revealed the love and affection they hold for her. Though they miss her terribly they are thrilled by her accomplishments. Furthermore, their time on Capitol Hill with their daughter confirmed she's doing quite well.

Kyle learned much watching his sister serve her country. Deb's and Greg's pride is certainly well placed.

RECOGNIZING THE 1998 UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. THOMAS W. EWING

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievements of the 1998 University of Illinois men's basketball team. Under the stewardship of Coach Lon Kruger, a team that was predicted to finish in the middle of the Big Ten in the most optimistic pre-season polls, the Illini men finished the season tied for the best record in the Big Ten. The sportswriters said that they didn't have any big name stars to lead them much further than mediocrity. What the sportswriters failed to understand was the determination and heart that this team would display throughout the season. Coach Kruger never doubted his team and his players never doubted themselves or their ability to compete against other Big Ten schools. The Illini had a precious commodity that many other schools lacked: Senior Leadership. Led by a group of Seniors that I have had the opportunity to watch evolve from wide-eyed freshman to steely veterans, the Illini shocked the Big Ten. Senior Kevin Turner exemplifies that evolution, as he led the Illini in scoring and was named to the All-Big Ten Conference team. However, I was disappointed that Lon Kruger did not receive the Big Ten Coach of the Year award, because he has done such an outstanding job. Coach Kruger, along with Seniors Turner, Jarrod Gee, Matt Heldman, Jerry Hester, Brian Johnson and Jelani Boline led the Illini to their best Big Ten record in recent memory. They then participated in the NCAA Tournament and beat a solid team from South Alabama in the first round. Although the Maryland Terrapins put an end to their incredible season in the second round, the Illini fought to the bitter end before falling in a close contest. Coach Kruger and the entire University of Illinois men's basketball team deserve the recognition of the House of Representatives for their incredible season. I would like to remind the Speaker that Midnight Madness and the start of the 1999 NCAA basketball season is only 198 days away.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "SOCIAL SECURITY SUNSHINE ACT OF 1988"

HON. JENNIFER DUNN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, without question the national dialogue to save social security is